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THE CUBAN SITUATION

I. The Castro regime's large, effective security apparatus and the reduced but still fanatic public support it enjoys among perhaps a quarter of the population give it sufficient strength to cope with considerably more internal resistance than seems likely in near future.

A. Popular discontent over consumer goods shortages and authoritarian controls is being manifested more in apathy and resignation than in active resistance, though there has been some recent increase in small-scale guerrilla activity and sabotage.

II. Castro's confession of Marxist-Leninist faith sets the stage for adoption of Soviet-style political organizations. The "United Party of the Socialist Revolution"--completely controlled by Communists--is soon to emerge from the present political organ, already firmly entrenched in every significant community. The regime's campaign of Communist indoctrination has thoroughly laid the groundwork.

III. Cuba's economic difficulties are serious, but--with Sino-Soviet bloc support--are not insurmountable. Over 75 percent of its trade is now with the bloc, which has extended Cuba some \$357 million in credits.

IV. Castro's appeal in Latin America has ebbed drastically and active support for Cuban policies is now largely confined to Communist and Communist-influenced minorities. Opinion polls suggest most Latin Americans reject Castro's "solutions" and still look to the US for help in what remains uppermost in their minds--improving their own

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immediate economic situations. Only seven LA countries still maintain diplomatic relations with Havana--Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, and Uruguay.

V. Increasing Cuban harassment of employees of the US Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay and the stepped up Cuban military activity in the base environs may presage a propaganda campaign to force US withdrawal.

A. But a Cuban military attack on the base is unlikely.

B. Castro has warned that some day "the Cuban people" may demand US withdrawal from the base at a new "assembly of the Cuban people"; such an "assembly", actually a mass gathering, is scheduled for 28 September.

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